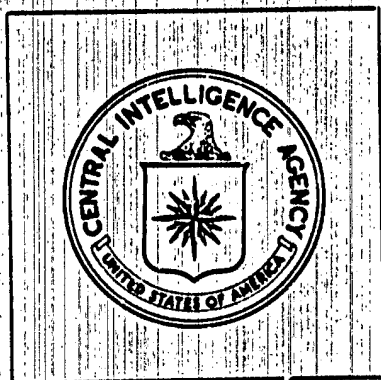


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STAFF NOTES:

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This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the [redacted] Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Exile of Papadopoulos

The arrest and exile on October 23 of ex-President Papadopoulos and four of his close associates in the junta that overthrew the civilian government in 1967 appear designed to satisfy public sentiment that justice should be done and leading personalities of the military regimes punished. This has become a major election issue, and Prime Minister Karamanlis has been vulnerable to criticism from the left that he has not broken decisively with the past. The move should increase his standing among all groups except the extreme right. The deportation of the accused to a nearby island in the Aegean is reportedly to provide easy access to Athens for trial.

Prime Minister Karamanlis is also probably reacting to earlier indications that Papadopoulos and other ex-junta leaders were planning to form a political party or support the newly formed National Democratic Union (EDE) led by Petros Garoufalias. One of the exiled junta leaders had reportedly hoped to be elected to parliament under the EDE banner. The right-wing EDE will draw votes from Karamanlis' conservative constituency.

An emissary of Prime Minister Karamanlis has reportedly been trying to persuade disgruntled conservative labor leaders--ousted under a recent government decree--not to support Garoufalias, claiming that even if his party got only three percent of the popular vote it could be very damaging to Karamanlis electoral prospects.

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We have no evidence that Papadopoulos was conspiring against the government, as a spokesman for Karamanlis has charged. His arrest is unlikely to create a strong reaction in the army, where he does not retain significant support. Charges against former Greek strongman Ioannidis, who overthrew Papadopoulos in 1973, are also under investigation; a move against Ioannides would be more difficult, however, because there is still pro-Ioannidis sentiment in the army. Besides, the spectre of a few disreputable junta junior officers lurking in the background makes good sense for Karamanlis at the polls.

Potential coup-plotters in the army still seem to be taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the Karamanlis government. [REDACTED]

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